

## From the Editor

AS part of our continuing series on Army divisions, this month's issue showcases the 1st Cavalry Division. Our cover photo — taken at great personal risk by Paul Disney — features SGT Robert Gower of the First Team's Horse Detachment.

Moving from horses to helicopters, veteran correspondent Steve Harding takes us to the Caribbean for a look at how Army aviators support counterdrug operations in a combined, interagency environment in "OPBAT Soldiers."

From Europe, Art McQueen gives us an inside look at the making of "Band of Brothers." Based on Stephen Ambrose's book on the exploits of "Easy Company," 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, this HBO miniseries premieres this month.

Finally, *Soldiers* bids farewell to our longtime managing editor, Lou Walker, as he retires to sunny Florida. Lou spent more than 21 years in service to our nation, both in and out of uniform. Lou was there for this magazine during difficult times and was the driving force behind its successes. We wish him and his family the very best of luck.

*John C. Suttle*

## What Weapon?

IN looking at the cover of the August issue I became curious about the type of weapon then-1LT White is holding. I was not aware that the round vented hand guards and forward pistol grips were available during Vietnam.

MAJ Mark Stevens  
via e-mail

*A QUICK and informal survey of the Soldiers staffers who served during the Vietnam era (both of us) resulted in the consensus opinion that the weapon White is holding is a CAR-15, the first attempt to turn the M-16 into a carbine. It was popular with special operations types, tankers, aviators and the occasional well-armed photojournalist. We'd welcome readers' input on this topic.*

## Computer Glitch

IN reference to your July back cover piece titled "Army Transforming America, Entering the Computer Age," I believe you are wrong about the first computer. The first electronic digital computer was the Atanasoff-Berry computer from Iowa State University. Most of the ideas used in the ENIAC were "borrowed" from John V. Atanasoff.

1LT Alexis C Warden  
Ansbach, Germany

AFTER looking at the images on pages 20 and 21 of your July issue, I checked my CD files and realized that my photographers were not given proper credit for the images.

John Byerly and William Crain spent many hours documenting the Phantom Lifeline exercise. Nothing could be more disappointing than seeing your images in a magazine and not

## About That First Step...

THE July article "First Step to an Army of One" stated that young troops marched smartly into formation to the tune "I'm Proud to be an American."

The correct title of the song is "God Bless the USA," and it was written by Lee Greenwood.

Keep up the great work!

SSG Martin A. Schmidt  
Fort Rucker, Ala.

THE July article about basic training and the drill sergeants at Fort Jackson was hooah.

However, there was a major oversight. My platoon, Medic Platoon, which provides emergency care and treatment for all the CBT companies and Fort Jackson, was not mentioned.

There are a lot more soldiers involved in training today's soldiers than were portrayed in this article.

SSG Ernest Garcia Jr.  
via e-mail

A DRILL sergeant pictured in your July basic training article was incorrectly identified. The drill sergeant listed as SSG Derick Herd, 3rd Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, is actually SFC David Kuhnert, 1st Plt., Co. B, 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. Regt.

I would appreciate if an outstanding drill sergeant would get the appropriate recognition.

CPT Valerie D. Henderson  
via e-mail

having proper credit given to you.

Christopher J. Varville  
Fort Hood, Texas

*WE agree that not getting credit for a photo is disappointing. We can say only that in this instance the credit lines did not accompany the photos as far as our editorial office.*

## Sniper School

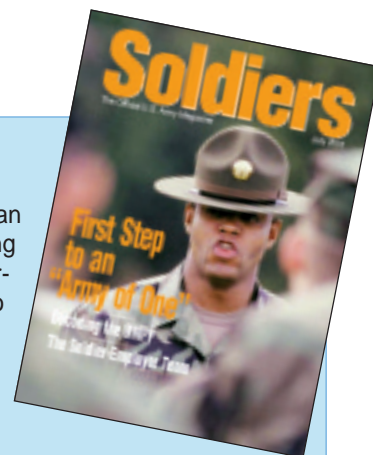
I AM currently enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard and am very interested in attending the Sniper School men-

tioned in the May article "Without Warning, Without Remorse," at Camp Robinson, Ark.

I have been unable to locate a contact number for the school, however, and would appreciate any help you could send my way in establishing a correspondence with the school.

SPC David W. McNown  
via e-mail

*THE school's cadre should be able to help you. You can reach them at (501) 212-4548 or (DSN) 962-4548.*



## Day of Infamy

WHILE I enjoyed the articles and photos in the May issue, I did note two small errors in the article "Recreating the Day of Infamy."

First, the service rifle of the day was the M1903, not the M-1903. The Army has never used a dash between the "M" and the numeric designation.

Second, the aircraft carrier that carried the gallant Doolittle raiders and their B-25 bombers within range of Japan was the USS *Hornet*, spelled with one "t."

Terry M. Nichols  
via e-mail

YOU'RE right on both counts, though on the question of the rifle's designation, we must answer to a higher authority — the Associated Press Style Manual requires use of the hyphen (not dash) in M-1903.

## Random Shots

I HAVE a question I hope you can answer.

Every change of command, retirement or change of accountability ceremony I have been involved in has the same requirement: we must remove all watches.

At just over 18 years in the military I am still puzzled by this particular requirement. I am standing in formation with a white band on my wrist where the sun never shines, because I always wear my watch.

If you look around the formation you see gold necklaces, earrings, soldiers on shaving profiles, nonmilitary glasses and, worst of all, soldiers with diamonds imbedded in their gold-capped front teeth.

I never considered this a major problem, but generally we are so far from the reviewing stand that I doubt anyone could

see my arm, let alone my watch.  
SFC Reggie G. Johnson  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

P.A. Fowler of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington's Ceremonies and Special Events Office replies:

Regulations say jewelry may be worn by soldiers in uniform. There is nothing in the regulation that requires a soldier to remove a wristwatch.

HAS DA authorized the wear of a shoulder sleeve insignia for service in the former Yugoslavia?

1LT Jeff Blair  
via e-mail

ACCORDING to MSG Kittie L. Messman, ODCSPER's uni-

form specialist, no shoulder sleeve insignia for wartime service is authorized for service in the former Yugoslavia, and there is no current effort to have one authorized.

WITH all due respect to everyone who writes to Feedback, why must 90 percent of all letters nitpick such things as exact names, places and techniques?

It is great that there are so many people out there that have nothing better to do than analyze and critique this publication. But I think it's time to stop being so negative and start being positive about what our Army represents!

SFC David J. Ball  
Fort Eustis, Va.

**Soldiers** is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: [soldiers@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:soldiers@belvoir.army.mil).



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